



City of Seattle
Seattle City Council

News Release

Council President Richard Conlin
Councilmember Sally Bagshaw
Councilmember Tim Burgess
Councilmember Sally J. Clark
Councilmember Jean Godden
Councilmember Bruce Harrell
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Seattle City Council announces 2010 priorities

Major emphasis on the economy, education and energy

SEATTLE –The Seattle City Council today announced their vision for Seattle and key efforts for 2010. The Council developed these priorities to support building a livable city, foster safe, just and healthy communities and invest public resources fairly and effectively.

The council highlighted their priorities in a full council session, placing particular emphasis on economic recovery, transportation choices, smart land use and development, clean energy and carbon neutrality, and education.

“These priorities reflect our commitment to the people of Seattle. Residents need to know what specific initiatives we plan to work on and what the Council should be helped accountable for accomplishing,” said Council President Richard Conlin.

Conlin added, “Economic recovery is at the head of our list. We know that getting people job training and jobs and getting business activity back on track are imperative for our community and for everything else we do as a City – including our key task of putting together a budget that is balanced and meets the needs of our citizens.”

“My priority is to maintain the Council commitment to putting people first, helping Seattle residents through this difficult economic time by keeping the safety net intact,” stated Councilmember Nick Licata.

Councilmember Tim Burgess, chair of the Council’s Public Safety and Education Committee,

said the City's relationship with the Seattle Public Schools would be a major area of focus this year. Burgess explained that the Council would begin consideration of renewal of the Families and Education Levy nearly a year earlier than in previous renewal cycles because of continued low high school graduation rates.

"The fact is that more than one-third of our students are not graduating from high school and this failure has gone on for years. It's time we take bold steps to change our school results. The long term success of our city is inextricably linked to the success of our public schools," said Councilmember Burgess.

Councilmember Bruce Harrell said today, "Our priorities recognize that all people matter, irrespective of socio-economic status or background. Our energy policies, conservation strategies and technology initiatives are designed to improve the circumstances for our residents and businesses and bring about sustainable change."

"In tough economic times it's important to keep our heads up and look for ways to be poised for the next growth cycle. Healthy cities are always growing," said Councilmember Sally J. Clark. "City government can help by updating our land-use laws to reflect the goals of the 21st century. This year Council will look at the neighborhoods in South Downtown and our multi-family code. Our plan is to help these parts of the city grow the way they want to."

Councilmember Mike O'Brien stated, "Addressing climate changes is the most pressing moral issue we face as a society. Seattle has an opportunity to shape what a carbon neutral society can look like in a way that is both economically sustainable and socially just."

"We have a long list of projects that need our attention and our focus should be on fostering relationships so we can get these things done! We are a much greater force when we work together," Councilmember Sally Bagshaw added this afternoon. "Participation is crucial to this effort, and we'll be striving to reach out to our neighborhoods, businesses, labor, environmentalists, and the many groups that are such assets to our city. It's no longer about us versus them; it is about us, all of us."

"Seattle is at a unique point in its history," Councilmember Tom Rasmussen said. "It is time to break ground and to build the projects that we have debated so long, to rebuild public confidence in the leadership of the Seattle Department of Transportation and to plan to meet the ever increasing demands for more sidewalks, bikeways and public transportation."

"As Budget Chair, I will look to these priorities to guide our discussion and make decisions. These are tough times, but by working together we will be able to make smart choices, keep our local business climate strong, and still protect vital services," said Councilmember Jean Godden.

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